

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-21 without prejudice. Add new claims 22-44 as follows:

22. A device for processing and printing information, comprising:
at least one information storage device in which is stored information;
at least one search device for searching the information stored in said at least one
information storage device;
a printer device for printing a printed copy that contains the information identified by the
search device;
a data network connecting said at least one information storage device and said at least one
search device and said printer device to one another;
said at least one search device includes a search criterion module having an input for search
terms and a print copy scope module for defining a scope of print copy so that a
search is implemented according to a criterion of search terms that have been input
and a given scope of print copy.

23. A device as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:
a formatting device connected to format information identified with said at least one search
device for printout at said printer device.

24. A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said printer device is a printing station
in which said formatting device and a printer are integrated.

25. A device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said printing station includes an
accounting module for billing usage fees for use of said at least one information storage
device.

26. A device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said data network is one of the Internet or an intranet.

27. A device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said data network is an area network.

28. A device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said at least one information storage device includes a data bank.

29. A method for processing and printing information, comprising the steps of:
searching information at a search station that is connected via a data network to at least one
information storage device, said searching step searching the information in said
information storage device according to a criterion of search terms prescribed by a
user as well as according to a scope of a printed product defined by the user;
formatting the information searched in said searching step in a form suitable for a printer
device; and
printing the information at the printer device to produce a printed product.

30. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the step of:
defining a lower and an upper limit value for a data quantity to be searched according to a
criterion of a defined scope of the printed product; and
setting a searched data quantity such that it lies between said lower and upper limit values.

31. A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said lower limit value is
approximately 10% through 20% smaller than said upper limit value.

32. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the steps of:
outputting a message of an anticipated cost of a printed copy order following
implementation of the search at the search station; and

receiving a confirmation from a user of said printed copy order.

33. A method as claimed in claims 29, further comprising the step of:
binding said printed copy.

34. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the step of:
disregarding search results which are beyond a scope defined for the printed product after
complete exhaustion of the search.

35. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the step of:
determining a match criteria of individual results in a search event, said match criteria being
proportional to a hit precision; and
disregarding the individual results having a low match criterion in a compilation of a final
search result.

36. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the step of:
automatically excluding ambiguities of search terms in a search event in order to achieve a
search with a small data quantity.

37. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the step of:
considering synonyms of search terms for achieving a larger data quantity of the search
result.

38. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the step of:
sending identified search results completely from said at least one information storage
device to said search station from which an interrogation was generated following
an interrogation of said information storage devices with given search terms.

39. A method as claimed in claim 37, further comprising the steps of:
evaluating the search results in the search station.

40. A method as claimed in claim 39, wherein said evaluating step includes
identifying data quantity and match criteria.

41. A method as claimed in claims 29, further comprising the steps of:
sending a message to said search station from said information storage device by which the
search had been generated following interrogation of the individual information
storage devices with the search terms prescribed by the user, the message contains a
particular about at least one of identified data quantity, anticipated costs and a match
criterion for the individual results, but the information to be printed are not
contained therein.

42. A method as claimed in claim 41, further comprising the step of:
sending print information directly from said information storage device to said printer
device after an order confirmation has been placed.

43. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the step of:
displaying an input mask that includes a plurality of pairs of fields at the search station for
inputting the search terms;
accepting the search criterion as input in one field of the pairs of fields and a search term
for an input search criterion as input in another of the two fields.

44. A method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the fields of the search terms are
fundamentally operated with a logical "and" operation, and at least one further field is
provided with which the logical "and" operation can be modified into a logical "or"
operation.